BLACKTHORNE
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FREAK-OUT
ON INFANT EARTHS
13
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BLACKTHORNE PUBLISHING

DICK TRACY monthly #9

Following a trail of murders, Dick Tracy closes in on Selbert Depool, who dies in a parade float accident. Tracy is shot and hovers near death until he is saved by a blood transfusion from a tiny local constable.

Recovering at the farm home of Constable Ferrit, Tracy is pushed into a mad bull's enclosure by a gang of stick-up men.

DICK TRACY MONTHLY #9 - 32 page, black and white, monthly comic with full color, laser-scanned covers ..... $2.00 ($2.75 Canada)

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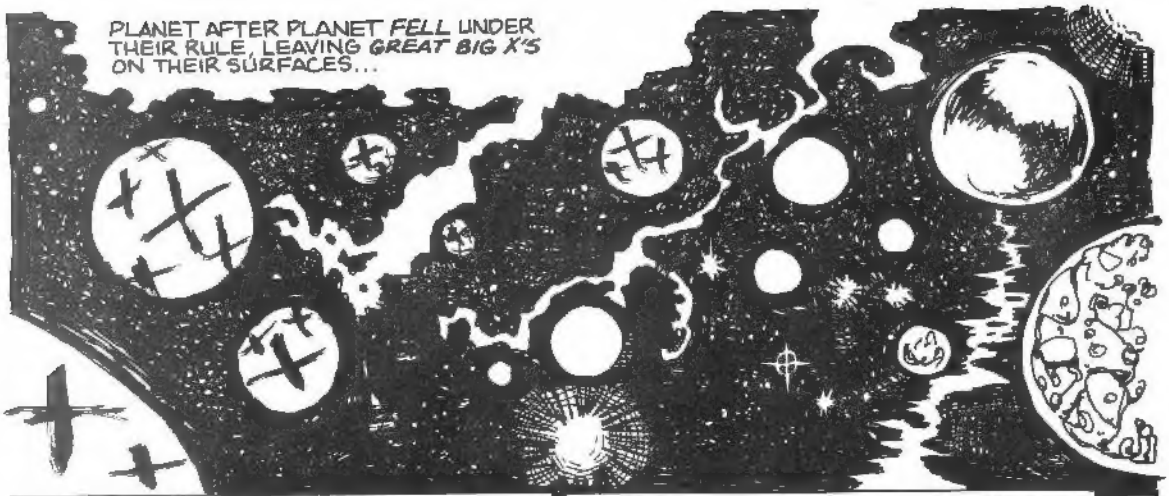
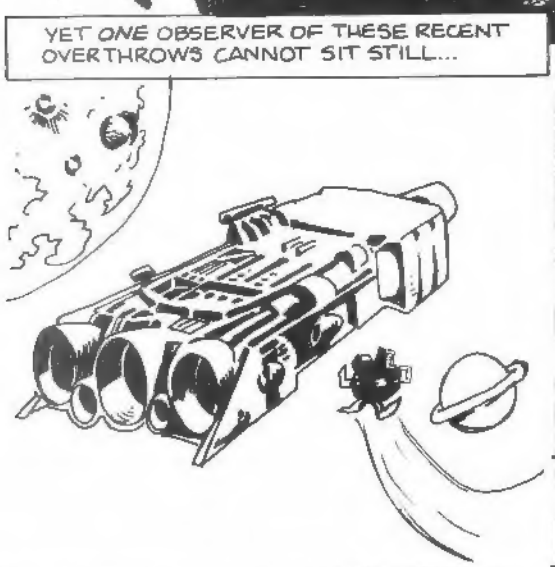
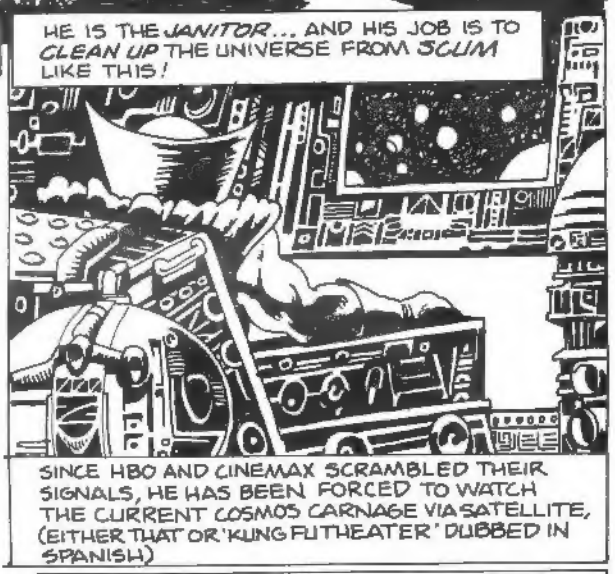
LOCKJAWS!
THE VERY NAME SENT SHIVERS OF HORROR DOWN EVERY INTELLIGENT SPINE IN THE UNIVERSE!
FOR LOCKJAWS HAD THE BLACKED SOULS OF KILLERS - THE FIERY EYES OF THE POSSESSED - THE STRENGTH OF TEN GOLIATHS - AND THE WORST TABLE MANNERS THIS SIDE OF THE BRONX!


PLANET AFTER PLANET *FELL* UNDER THEIR RULE, LEAVING *GREAT BIG X'S* ON THEIR SURFACES...


YET *ONE* OBSERVER OF THESE RECENT OVERTHROWS CANNOT SIT STILL...


HE IS THE *JANITOR*... AND HIS JOB IS TO *CLEAN UP* THE UNIVERSE FROM *SCUM* LIKE THIS!
SINCE HBO AND CINEMAX SCRAMBLED THEIR SIGNALS, HE HAS BEEN FORCED TO WATCH THE CURRENT COSMOS CARNAGE VIA SATELLITE, (EITHER THAT OR 'KUNG FU THEATER' DUBBED IN SPANISH)

HMM... THE LOCKJAW ARMIES MOVE CLOSER AND CLOSER TO THE MILKY WAY GALAXY...
SOON THEY SHALL RAVAGE *EARTH* AND HER SISTER PLANETS... *NOT GOOD.*

THE JANITOR CONCENTRATES OVER THE SITUATION, AS HIS TEMPLES PULSE INTENSELY... HE SUDDENLY HAS A SERIOUS REVELATION...
I THINK I HAVE A *HEADACHE!!*
VHS

OH, POOR, POOR EARTH! YOU KNOW NOTHING OF THE TERRORS THAT ARE ABOUT TO BEFALL YOU!
YOUR WEAPONS WILL BE USELESS AGAINST THEIR FORCES!
THEY WILL STRIP YOU OF YOUR DIGNITY,
RAPE THE WOMEN AND LAND, SLAUGHTER THE CHILDREN...
SPAY YOUR DOGS!
ALL RIGHT— ALL RIGHT... MY HEADACHE'S GONE NOW— YOU CAN QUIT THE CORN-BALL JOKES. THIS IS THIS IS SERIOUS BUSINESS WE NEED TO TEND TO HERE!
I FIND MYSELF IN DIRE STRAITS—I ALONE CANNOT FIGHT BACK THE LOCKJAW HORDE... I WILL NEED AN ARMY. I WILL NEED TO RE-CRUIT THIS GALAXY'S MIGHTIEST HEROES! I WILL NEED TO SELL LOTS OF ISSUES TO AVOID CANCELLATION! THIS WILL HAVE TO BE VERY EXCITING AND AN IN-STANT COLLECTOR'S ITEM... I WILL NEED TO CAUSE AN ALL-OUT...

GORR NO LIKE THIS.

WOOF?

DADDY?

HOLY---! ONE MINUTE I'M FLOPPING WHOPPERS AND THE NEXT...

DIS MUST BE SUM KINDA COMMIE ATTACK!

HEY?

WHAT IN TARNATION?

SIS! WHERE ARE WE?

WHAT DO I LOOK LIKE...A WALKING ATLAS?

WHAT IS THIS BLOODY OUTRAGE?!

WHOEVER DID THIS WILL PAY! SO SWEARS BLUE BONNET... SHE DEVIL WITH A BUTTERKNIFE!

CREATED BY: DON CHIN & HERB WOOD

LETTERS: DIANE VALENTINO

O.K. BUSTER— WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA?
WELCOME TO MY DOMAIN— I AM THE JANITOR... YOU ARE MY GUESTS!
?!
HEY— THIS IS MORE LIKE IT... HORS D'OERVES!
ROOF!*
* SMELLS LIKE LIVER!
YOU ARE AMONG THE GALAXY'S GREATEST HEROES! EACH OF YOU POSSESS EXTRAORDINARY FIGHTING SKILLS AND AMAZING SUPER-POWERS!

YEAH, MEBBE SO, BUT NONE OF US HAVE OUR OWN BOOKS - LOOKS TO ME LIKE YOU PICKED A CROP OF SECOND STRINGERS! DON'T YOU WANT GUYS LIKE...
YECHS MEN
PRETENDERS
TNT AGENTS
UH-HUH... OR HOW 'BOUT THEM DUDES, THE...
...STALL FARM SQUADRON
...JUST A LEAGUE of AMERICANS
OR THE NUDE TEEN TIGHTWADS?

AND LET'S NOT FORGET THE MIGHTY EAST COAST PRETENDERS, THE NEW DEFECTORS AND ALPHA BETA FLIGHT... THE TEAM SO GOOD YOU'LL WANT TO TELL A FRIEND?
AB
AB
FROM RUSSIA WITH LOVE
USSR
USA
WE'RE FROM BOSTON
DIANA ROSS AND THE SQUADRON SUPREMES
WHAT ABOUT THE GUARDIANS OF TH' ART GALLERY?
GLORIA STEINEM'S FEMINIST FORCE?
...LEGION OF STUPID HAROLDS?
RATMAN AND THE GOUT FIGHTERS?
FAZED ONES?
DUMBSDAY SQUASH?
13
SHUT UP!

AHEM... ALL OF THOSE GROUPS ARE OWNED BY OTHER COMPANIES... THEREFOR I HAD TO MAKE THE BEST OF WHAT I HAD TO WORK WITH... NAMELY, YOU!
BEFORE I SEND YOU OFF TO FIGHT, I MUST EXPLAIN WHY YOU ARE HERE!
YEAH! DAT SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD IDEA.
I BROUGHT YOU ALL FROM DIFFERENT WORLDS...
"FROM PRESENT DAY EARTH WE HAVE SGT. RUCKER, ARROWMAN AND JOE NINJA."
GOT DAT RIGHT, HORN-HEAD!
WHAT AM I DOING HERE?
#.#.
"FROM ANCIENT EGYPT, I TELEPORTED GORR..."
OOH-TALKATIVE FELLA, AIN'T HE? TEE-HEE!
"FROM THE EARTH OF THE FUTURE, I WELCOME SLUGGER LUZINSKI AND THE METAL COWBOY..."
THIS SURE DON'T LOOK LIKE NO SHEASTADIUM TA ME!
HOWDY PARDNERS!
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"FROM THE SECRET PARADOZE ISLAND OF AMAZON FEMALES IN THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE, I BROUGHT AIR GIRL, WATER WOMAN, FIRE FURY AND BLUE BONNET, SHE-DEVIL WITH A BUTTERKNIFE..."
MY, WHAT A BIG PLACE YOU HAVE HERE. DOES IT HAVE A SPA?
THAT'S MS. WATER WOMAN TO YOU, MISTER!
YOU TELL 'IM, SIS!
CRUMB!
"FROM THE PLANET OF HIGH BORE-YA, THE ANIMAL KINGDOM, CANINE THE BARBARIAN AND THE TOAD WARRIOR!"
GRRRR..
YOU CAN CALL ME TAD TAD POLE NO RELATION TO THAT WIMP, KERMIT EITHER!
"AND FROM THE DEPTHS OF LIMBO, THE SON OF DEATH HIMSELF, DEATH, JR.!!"
HI!
MY FRIENDS, THIS IS WHAT AWAITS US.. AN EVIL PLAGUE OF ALIENS KNOWN ONLY AS THE LOCKJAWS! THEY ARE WIPING OUT HUNDREDS OF PLANETS A DAY..
SOON THEY WILL BE IN THIS GALAXY.
JUST WHAT ARE THESE VARMINTS LIKE?
THEY'RE JUST ABSOLUTELY AWFUL, COWBOY! THEY LIVE TO KILL. THEY DESPISE THE VERY CONCEPT OF LOVE! THEY HATE MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN WITH UNSPEAKABLE PASSION. THEY EVEN HATE BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN!
HATE SPRINGSTEEN? YUP! SOUNDS LIKE A BUNCHA RUSSIAN-BACKED COMMIES TO ME! LEMME AT 'EM!
CLICK
GULP!

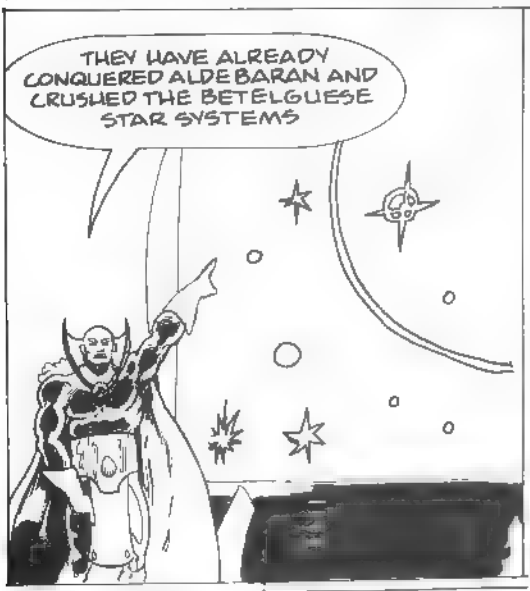
THIS IS MY PLAN I WANT TO DIVIDE YOU UP IN THREE TEAMS ..
AND SEND YOU OFF TO PLANETS THAT NEED YOUR ASSISTANCE !
BLUE BONNET HAS A QUESTION, O LARGE ONE WHAT IF SOME OF US DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOUR LOP-SIDED LITTLE SECRET WAR ?
WELL, MY FAIR LADY .
YOU WOULD BE JETTISONED WITH MY GARBAGE, EXPLODE IN SPACE, AND THEN ALL HOPES FOR LAUNCHING YOUR OWN SUCCESSFUL LITTLE COMIC BOOK WOULD BE PRETTY MUCH ZILCH, WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
U-UH-HUH... BLUE BONNET GETS YOUR DRIFT.
E-EXCUSE ME, MISTER JANITOR, SIR, BUT WHAT DO WE GET IF WE WIN ?
YEAH - WHAT'S INNIT FOR US ?
YOU GET.
A BRAND NEW CAR!!....

HEH-HEH, BUT SERIOUSLY FOLKS, IF YOU SUCCESSFULLY DEFEAT THE LOCKJAW HORDE, I WILL MAKE EACH OF YOUR WILDEST DREAMS COME TRUE!
ADDED TO THAT FACT IS THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING YOUR OWN SATURDAY MORNING T.V SERIES AND
DETAILED PLASTIC PLAYFIGURES MADE OF YOURSELF BY HASBRO!
CRUNCH!!
WHAT MORE COULD A HERO WANT?
N NOT SO FAST HERE, DUDE! Y..YOU JUST SMASHED LAWNA WHITE WITH YOUR FOOT WITH NO REGRETS AT ALL!
GASP!
YEWW! GROSS
W WHAT MAKES US BELIEVE THAT WE CAN TRUST YOU?
OH, HER? JUST A MERE AUTOMATED PLEASURE-DROID. IT DIDN'T FEEL A THING, I ASSURE YOU!!
WHEW! THAT'S A RELIEF!
AS I WAS SAYING- IF YOU FIGHT FOR ME AND WIN, ANYTHING YOU WANT IS YOURS!
AND IF YOU DON'T LIKE IT, RETURN IT WITHIN TWO WEEKS FOR A FULL REFUND!

"THINK OF IT- ANYTHING AT ALL..."
WOW! I COULD GET A SOLID GOLD HARTZ FLEA COLLAR-A LIFE-TIME SUPPLY OF FLEA POWDER AND KIBBLES 'N BITS!*
*CANINE'S THOUGHTS TRANSFERED FROM PEKINGESE - THE EDITOR
I WOULD WISH THAT THE CURSE UPON ME WOULD END...

I - I COULD QUIT MY FRY COOK JOB AT BOOGER KING AND BECOME THE PRESIDENT OF IBM! YOW!
I WOULD WANT ENOUGH CLEAN WATER TO MAKE MY PLANET A HEALTHY ONE SO ALL MY PEOPLE WOULD SURVIVE. .
HMM. I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A U.S. ARMY GENERAL - LIKE PATTON! YES, REE, THERE WAS A REAL SOLDIER!
GEE WIZ — I'D GIVE MY RIGHT ARM
.. TO HAVE THE ENTIRE COLLECTION OF EVERY TOPP'S BASEBALL CARD THAT EVER EXISTED! THERE'D BE MICKEY, 'N BABE, 'N REGGIE, 'N WILLIE, 'N.
I WISH MY DAD WOULD LOVE MORE HE NEVER SPENDS TIME WITH ME — HE'S ALWAYS AT WORK!
CRUMB! WHAT I WOULDN'T GIVE FOR A SHARPER BLADE! THIS BUTTER KNIFE COULDN'T SLICE THROUGH PAPER!
MEN!!! I HAVEN'T SEEN A MAN OR HAD A DATE ON PARADOZE ISLAND ALL OF MY LIFE!!!
I SHORE COULD LIKE BEIN' IN THE ENTERTAINMENT SPOTLIGHT AGAIN 'STEAD A WORKIN' INNA VIDEO ARCADE!
GOLLY— I WISH I HAD A BRAIN!

YET TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE, MY FRIENDS
PANTY RAID PANTY RAID...
EVERY MINUTE THAT WE SPEND CHATTING IS ONE STEP MORE THAT THE LOCKJAWS GAIN IN COMING TO THE MILKY WAY..


THEY HAVE ALREADY CONQUERED ALDEBARAN AND CRUSHED THE BETELGUESE STAR SYSTEMS

"CRUSHED BEETLE JUICE"! — EYEEW! THAT'S DISGUSTING!
THIS TEENY-BOPPER IS REALLY GETTIN' ON MY NERVES, SIS! CAN I PUNCH HER?
C'MON... EASE UP!!

I SUSPECT THAT THEIR NEXT TARGET IS CANIS MAJOR, HOME OF THE STAR, SIRIUS!
ROWLF! YIPPP! YIP! YIP!!
*SIRIUS? THAT'S MY HOME PLANET, THOSE SLIMEBAGS!

THESE THREE CUBES WILL WILL BE USED TO TRANSPORT YOU AT ALMOST LIGHT SPEED TO YOUR DESTINATIONS ON BOARD THE CUBES, A SCREEN WILL BRIEF YOU ON YOUR MISSIONS. I WILL NOW DIVIDE YOU INTO 3 TEAMS OF FOUR APIECE!

FOR THE FIRST GROUP I WOULD LIKE GORR, SGT RUCKER, JOE NINJA AND DEATH JR TO CLIMB ABOARD
PLEASE PROCEED AND STRAP YOURSELVES IN TIGHTLY YOU HAVE A FANTASTIC JOURNEY AHEAD OF YOU
WHERE'S THE LATRINE?
TEAM TWO WILL BE ARROWMAN, SLUGGER LUZINSKI THE TOAD WARRIOR AND CANINE!
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T'S HOT IN HERE.
SAY BUDDY, DO YOU HAVE SOME DRAMAMINE?
DON'T LOOK AT ME!
AND THAT LEAVES YOU LADIES FOR MY THIRD STRIKE FORCE! PLEASE STEP INTO THE TRANSPORTER BEHIND YOU
OOH! HOW EXCITING! I'VE NEVER FLOWN IN OUTER SPACE BEFORE OR HAVE I? I FORGET!
LET ME CONNECT ONE TO YOUR JAW-I'LL SHOW YOU OUTER SPACE DINGBAT!
CALM DOWN, SIS!

SHORTLY, THE JANITOR'S MONSTROUS SHIP VIBRATES AS THE CUBES ARE SHOT OUT INTO SPACE!
REMINDS ME OF A RECON MISSION I DID IN BURMA BACK IN WWI... YOU MEMBER THAT ONE KID? OR WERE YOU ON THE NIP'S SIDE? MAYBE I SHOT YOUR MOMMASAN! HAR-HAR!
I HAVE YET TO ENTER A FRAY WORTHY OF MY UNBRIDLED STRENGTH PERHAPS THIS WILL BE A CHALLANGE
UH, RIGHT.
EAYY... WHY WE'RE WAITIN FOR THE FUCK TO POP ON TH SCREEN..
LEMME TELL YOU BOYS A BIT ABOUT MYSELF MY NAME IS RUCKER GORDONG RUCKER— BUT YO. CAN' ALL ME 'GONZO'
GONZO.
"MY RANK'S SERGEANT FIRST CLASS I SERVED ON THE FRONT LINES IN 'NAM, NORMANDY, KOREA AND LED THE ASSAULT INTO GRENADA COUPLA YEARS AGO I RETIRED BUT REMAIN ON CALL TO SERVE MY COUNTRY THE U.S. OF A..!"
"NOW TO SUPPORT MYSELF I SELL PAPERS IN D.C... RONNIE'S A PERSONAL FRIEND OF MINE, YA KNOW. N THE SUMMERTIME I TRAIN MERCENARIES AT FORT BRAGG!
YOU KNOW WHAT I'D DO IF I WAS SECRETARY OF DEFENSE? YOU KNOW WHAT I'D DO TO ALLA THOSE COMMIE PINKO SCUMBAGS?!...
NUKE 'EM ALL, I SAY!
ANYWAYS, THERE I WAS AT HOME TONIGHT DRESSED UP IN COMBAT FATIGUES JUST FER OLD TIMES SAKE WHEN ALL OF A SUDDEN I'M ZAPPED INTO SPACE! PRETTY WILD, EH?

HOW ABOUT YOU, MUMMY-MAN? HOW D YOL WIND UP IN DIS CRAZY PLATOON?
IT IS A LONG STORY BUT I WILL TRY TO MAKE IT SHORT
"MY NAME IS GORKANATON A SERVANT OF THE YOUNG KING TUTANKHAMON IN EGYPT. THE YEAR IS 1370 B.C."
"ONCE, I WAS THE YOUNG KING'S FINEST BODYGUARD. I PROTECTED HE AND HIS LOVELY QUEEN FROM ALL KNOWN ENEMIES."
"THE KING TRAVELLED OFTEN, LEAVING HIS WIFE BEHIND. SECRETLY, SHE FULFILLED HER SEXUAL DESIRES WITH ME..."
"ONE DAY — IT WAS NO LONGER A SECRET... TUT AND THE OTHER GUARDS CAUGHT US ENGAGED IN SIN..."
ADULTRESS! TRAITOR!
"THE KING WAS OUTRAGED. HIS MEN BEAT ME AND LEFT ME TO ROT IN THE DESERT. EGYPT'S AGED EMPEROR SAID THAT THE WRATH OF OUR GOD AMON WAS TO FALL ON ME THAT NIGHT... I WAS A SHATTERED MAN."

"THAT NIGHT, EYE WAS RIGHT. AN ANGRY AMON AWAKENED ME FROM MY SLEEP WITH THE QUAKING OF THE EARTH!"
"AMON LET HIS ANGER BE KNOWN— BURNING MY FACE WITH HIS SIGHT..."
KRAKOOM!
AMON PLACES A CURSE UPON YOU, GORKANKATON. THOUGH YOU SHALL LIVE-YOU MUST PAY A PRICE FOR YOUR MISERABLE LIFE!
IN ORDER TO LIVE YOU MUST KILL AT LEAST ONE SOUL PER DAY. THE VICTIMS ARE TO BE WHO I DEEM NOT TO BE LIVING THE HOLY LIFE THAT AMON- GOD HAS DEMANDED
I HAVE GIVEN YOU A FRACTION OF MY OWN SIGHT SO YOU MAY SEE INTO THE HEARTS OF EVIL. IF YOU FAIL TO KILL AS I COMMAND..
THEN YOUR OWN SOUL SHALL BE IN THE ETERNAL FIRE... GO FORTH AND DO AS I SAY, GORKANKATON!!
I SHALL..

"IMMEDIATELY I WENT TO WORK— EASILY DECIMATING OVER HALF OF TUT'S DARK HEARTED GUARDS... MANY WERE MY FRIENDS"
"I MADE MY WAY TO THE BOY KING HIMSELF — HIS SOUL WAS CORRUPTED WITH GREED. I SLEW HIM."
HOLEEE —! H-HOW MANY FOLKS HAVE YOU KILLED SINCE BACK THEN, GORR OL' B'BUDDY?
THAT'S HOW TUTANKHAMON MET AN EARLY DEATH — BY MY BLADE'S EDGE...
OVER ONE MILLION.
UH HEH-HEH.. D-DID YOU MEET YOUR DAILY QUOTA OF SINNERS TODAY- I HOPE..?
MY HERO
NO. I HAVE NOT MET MY QUOTA TODAY
GULP
HEH-HEH-HEH! D-DIDJA HEAR DAT- N-NINJA? HE HASN'T M-MET HIS Q-O-WO-WO-TA T-TODAY..! SORRY TA HEAR THAT! REALLY!
THIS IS GONNA BE A LONG TRIP! TOO LONG!

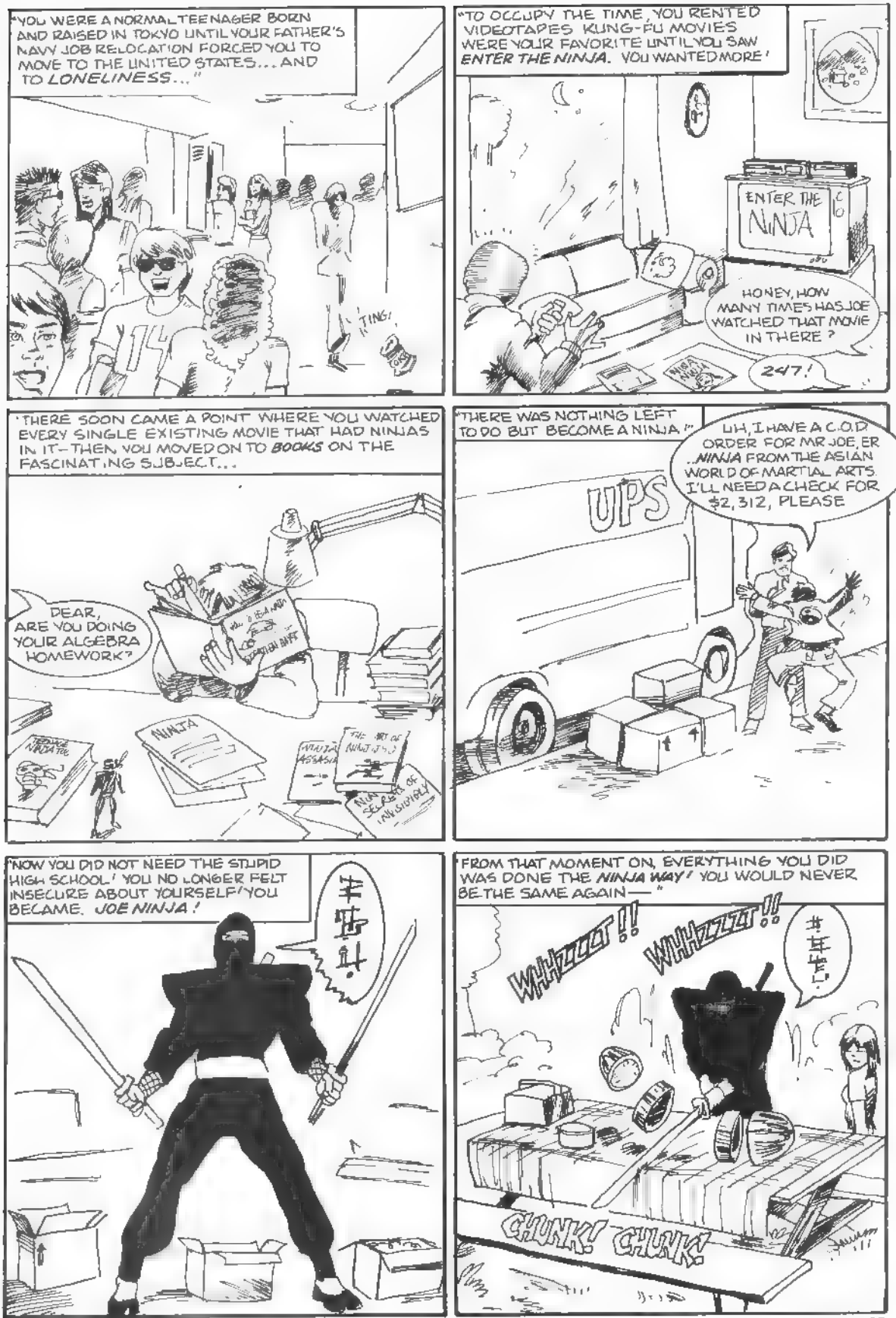
SOON.
PSSST! HEY... YOU CAN RELAX NOW... GORR IS ASLEEP... RESTING!
HUH?
TAP-TAP-TAP
CHICK CHUCK
CLICK-
MAN, THAT GUY GIVES ME THE CREEPS! I SAY WE WASTE HIM RIGHT HERE ON THE SPOT BEFORE HE MAKES LUNCHMEAT OUTA US!
NO! WAIT!
HUH?
YOU STUPID KID! GIT YER FINGER OUTA MY GUN I DON'T WANNA SHOOT YOU!!
I REALIZE THAT MR SARGEANT SIR BUT GORR IS ON OUR SIDE - WE'LL NEED ALL THE POWER WE CAN GET WHEN WE FIGHT THOSE LOCKJAW THINGS! FRANKLY I'M GLAD GORR IS ON OUR SIDE, AREN'T YOU?
YEAH I SUPPOSE YER RIGHT. HE JUST DOESN'T FIT THE MOLD AS AN 'ALLIED KINDA GUY, I GUESS I'LL LET HIM LIVE BUT IF HE EVER RAISES THAT SWORD AGAINST US, I'LL PUMP HIM SO FULLA HOLES THAT KRAFT COULD SELL HIM AS SWISS CHEESE!
THANKS, SARGE
COME TA THINK OF IT YOU SURE ARE A WEIRD LOOKIN KID, BOY! SKINNIER THAN AN OKLAHOMA BEANPOLE YOU FROM ONE OF DEM AFRICAN COUNTRIES OR SOMETHING?
WHO ME? NO I'M NOT FROM THAT PART OF THAT AT ALL.

I COME FROM A PLACE CALLED 'LIMBO'. IT'S REAL BORING THERE. NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF LOST SOULS WANDERING AROUND LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO STAY PERMANENTLY
KINDA LIKE OUTER SPACE EXCEPT YOU ALWAYS GOT PEOPLE ASKING YOU FOR DIRECTIONS
"LIMBO'S A WAITING ROOM TO FIND OUT WHETHER YOU'RE GOING TO HEAVEN OR HELL - I WASN'T GOING TO EITHER
"SO I THOUGHT HANGING AROUND WAS A REAL BUMMER. JUST WHEN YOU GOT TO KNOW SOMEONE, THEY WOULD MOVE OUT!"
"PLUS, MY DAD, THE BIG GUY CALLED DEATH WAS THE WORLD'S WORST FAMILY MAN. HE WAS EVERYWHERE BUT AT HOME! IF IT WASN'T A WAR, IT WAS A
NUCLEAR ACCIDENT; IF IT WASN'T A NUKE ACCIDENT, IT WAS AIDS. THERE WAS ALWAYS SOMETHING THAT KEPT MY DAD AWAY ON BUSINESS. I CAN'T REMEMBER THE LAST TIME I SAW HIM...
"SO LAST NIGHT I PACKED MY SUITCASE AND DECIDED TO RUN AWAY FROM HOME AND END MY MISERABLE LIFE. I WANTED TO.
"...JUMP OFF THE CLIFFS OF LIMBO AND FALL FOREVER INTO OBLIVION SO NOBODY WOULD EVER SEE ME AGAIN. NOBODY CARES, ANYWAYS, OR SO I THOUGHT!"
POIT!
"I WAS ABOUT TO TAKE THE PLUNGE WHEN SUDDENLY THINGS FREAKED OUT! I DISAPPEARED FROM LIMBO AND WOUND UP IN THE JANITOR'S SHIP."
SO HERE I AM... HOPING YOU GUYS WILL BE THE FIRST FRIENDS I'VE EVER HAD!
AW...
SNIFF
C'MERE, KID. WE'LL BE YOUR PALS, AIN'T THAT RIGHT, NINJA?
GEE, THANKS!

ACHOO!
GURK
WHAA-
ACHOO!
SNIFF
ACHOO!
HURRGH
RALPH!
HEY, YOU GUYS ALL RIGHT?
OH NO, GUYS! I'M SORRY! I DID THIS TO YOU! I... I FORGOT!
ERF!
FORGOT? FORGOT ABOUT WHAT, KID?
I FORGOT I POSSESS THE TOUCH OF DEATH! I INHERITED IT FROM MY FATHER! WHEN YOU HUGGED ME, WE MADE CONTACT-- I COULDN'T HELP IT!
YA MEAN (KOFF, KOFF) WE'RE GONNA DIE?!
セクシー!
I... I DON'T THINK SO!
GOLLY, IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE TOUCHED SOMEONE I CAN'T REMEMBER I KNOW THAT WHEN DAD KISSES OR TOUCHES SOMEBODY, THEY'RE A GONER!

WAIT! NOW I REMEMBER WHAT FATHER TOLD ME – HE SAID THAT MY TOUCH WOULD MAKE PEOPLE SICK–NOT KILL THEM
GASP! GASP! ARE YOU SURE? ARE YOU SURE?
POSITIVELY ABSOLUTELY
BUT WHEN I HIT PUBERTY... WATCH OUT!
HEAR THAT JOE? WHEN THE KID'S VOICE STARTS TO CHANGE, WE GET HIM A PAIR OF HEAVY DUTY GLOVES!
IN MINUTES, THE CUBE SHURLED PAST THE FRINGES OF OUR GALAXY
HEY! THAT'S THE PLANET PLUTO!
HOW CAN YOU TELL?
I SEE ALIENS ICE SKATING!
WOULDJA LOOK AT THAT? WE'RE GOING WHERE NO MAN HAS GONE BEFORE – AND DAT AIN'T JUST SOME "STAR TREK" CLICHE!
WOW!
PLINK!
WHOA! IT'S THE JANITOR!
SO I SEE!

SORRY TO STARTLE YOU, SARGEANT I DO HOPE YOU ARE ENJOYING THE TRIP SO FAR, WARRIORS
I'D BE ENJOYING IT MORE IF YOU HAD SOME *SEXY STEWARDESSES* AND A DECENT *IN FLIGHT MOVIE*, BUT I GUESS YOU CAN'T HAVE EVERYTHING, *EH?!*
I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT YOU'LL BE APPROACHING YOUR BATTLE LOCATION IN APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR I SUGGEST YOU REST NOW WHILE YOU CAN. I'LL BE BACK TO BRIEF YOU ON YOUR MISSION IN 45 MINUTES. IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, JUST CALL FOR ME AND I'LL APPEAR IN THE VIEWERTRON SCREEN ... SIGNING OFF.
YOU HEARD THE COMMANDER, TROOPS – LET'S ALL TRY AND GRAB SOME SHUT EYE
I AM NOT SLEEPY
WELL, THAT'S FINE, GORR. JUST PROMISE YOU WON'T KILL US, OKAY?
I PROMISE.
THE EVENTS OF THE DAY SOON CATCH UP WITH THE HEROES, AS THEY EASILY DOZE OFF
Z...Z...Z...Z
ZZZ ZZZ
Z-Z-Z
JOE NINJA DREAMS... AND *REMEMBERS*...
ZZZZZZZZZZ


"YOU WERE A NORMAL TEENAGER BORN AND RAISED IN TOKYO UNTIL YOUR FATHER'S NAVY JOB RELOCATION FORCED YOU TO MOVE TO THE UNITED STATES... AND TO LONELINESS..."
TING!
"TO OCCUPY THE TIME, YOU RENTED VIDEOTAPES KUNG-FU MOVIES WERE YOUR FAVORITE UNTIL YOU SAW ENTER THE NINJA. YOU WANTED MORE!
ENTER THE NINJA
HONEY, HOW MANY TIMES HAS JOE WATCHED THAT MOVIE IN THERE?
247!
"THERE SOON CAME A POINT WHERE YOU WATCHED EVERY SINGLE EXISTING MOVIE THAT HAD NINJAS IN IT—THEN, YOU MOVED ON TO BOOKS ON THE FASCINATING SUBJECT...
DEAR, ARE YOU DOING YOUR ALGEBRA HOMEWORK?
NINJA
"THERE WAS NOTHING LEFT TO DO BUT BECOME A NINJA."
UPS
UH, I HAVE A C.O.D ORDER FOR MR JOE, ER ..NINJA FROM THE ASIAN WORLD OF MARTIAL ARTS I'LL NEED A CHECK FOR $2,312, PLEASE
"NOW YOU DID NOT NEED THE STUPID HIGH SCHOOL! YOU NO LONGER FELT INSECURE ABOUT YOURSELF! YOU BECAME. JOE NINJA!
"FROM THAT MOMENT ON, EVERYTHING YOU DID WAS DONE THE NINJA WAY! YOU WOULD NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN—"
WHHZZZT!!
WHHZZZT!!
CHUNK! CHUNK!

AND NINJA HAS THE BALL ON THE 40 YARD LINE. BUT HERE COMES THE COUGARS' DEFENSIVE LINEMEN!
WOW! WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT! NINJA LOOKS LIKE HE DISAPPEARED OUT OF THIN AIR! AMAZING FOOTWORK, FOLKS!
CRUNCH!
WAY TO GO, JOE!
YOO-HOO!! THIS IS YOUR EARLY MORNING WAKE-UP CALL! ARE YOU MEN WITH ME?
YOU WILL BE APPROACHING BAYA IV IN ABOUT 15 MINUTES. THIS WILL BE THE SITE OF YOUR FIRST FLIGHT! BAYA IS A DENSE PLANET OF JUNGLE LIFE AND VEGETATION, SIMILAR TO HAWAII. IT IS RULED BY A GOOD KING NAMED KOROUTANEK

I DO NOT KNOW HOW MANY LOCKJAWS ARE HERE - I ONLY KNOW THAT A DISTRESS SIGNAL WAS SENT OUT EARLIER THIS MORNING FOR HELP YOUR GOAL IS TO GATHER NATIVE FORCES
KILL AS MANY LOCKJAWS AS YOU CAN AND RESCUE THE KING FROM ANY DANGER HE MAY BE IN.. IS THAT CLEAR?
CLEAR AS CRYSTAL, J SO WHAT DO WE DO AFTER WE KICK ALIEN BUTT? HAVE A LUAU?
SORRY SGT RUCKER, BUT YOU SHALL HAVE LITTLE TIME TO DILLY-DALLY AROUND. IF YOU ACCOMPLISH YOUR TASK.
ALL SURVIVORS SHOULD COME BACK TO THE CUBE TO AWAIT FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM ME.
JANITOR- THIS JUST DON'T SEEM LIKE THE ATMOSPHERE THAT WOULD BE SAFE FOR A LITTLE KID TO BE IN ARE YOU SURE?
DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!!
HE SPEAKS THE TRUTH - NONE OF YOU WOULD BE HERE IF I HAD NOT FOUND YOU WORTHY... THE YOUNG BOY IS NO EXCEPTION..
PREPARE FOR BATTLE - BAYA IV AWAITS!

HANG ON TIGHT!
WHERE'S THE BRAKES ON DIS RIG?!!
BBB BBBB BBBB BBB!
KA-CHOOM!

ARE WE THERE YET?

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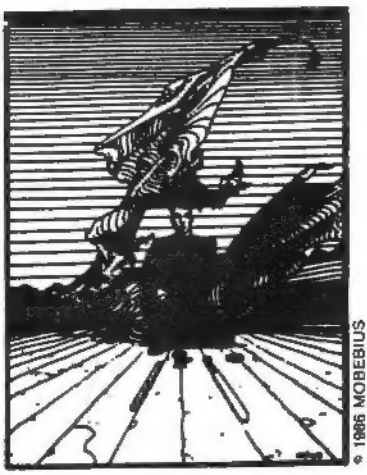

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